

**Rose Hill Manor Park**

**Pre-Visit LESSON PLAN**

**Title: Slavery – Runaways in Frederick County and Slave Laws**

**Subject(s):** (MD VSC) Social Studies- History, Reading/Language Arts – Comprehension of Information.

**Course(s): Social Studies**

**Grade level(s):** 8-12

**Length:** 45 mins. (one class period)

**Abstract or goal of lesson:** Students will

- Examine a newspaper story about a slave runaway attempt in Frederick County from 1854 and
- Review the Slave Laws of Maryland that were in place in 1854 to
- Cultivate an understanding of the risks to slaves and accomplices to help find freedom and
- Determine if the challenges of running were worth the risks of getting caught and why.

**Key/Focusing questions:**

- See attached list

**Curriculum Standards *Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum***

- **SSHHistory8 5.0C4b,c** – Analyze the institution of slavery, the experiences of African-American slaves and free blacks, and discuss abolitionist reform movements.
- **SSHHistory8 5.0C5a,b** – Analyze government policies and legislation regarding slavery such as the Fugitive Slave Act and the events and issues that also contributed to greater national division using a story from our local community.
- **SSHHistory8 6.0Aa-d** - Use appropriate strategies to increase understanding of print and non print sources and to apply new vocabulary. Use context clues for understanding.
- **SSHHistory8 6.0A1** - Use appropriate strategies to make predictions and draw conclusions based of information.

- **EngLA8 1.0E1;3&4** - Refine comprehension by exposure to a variety of print and digital media; use strategies to make meaning from text and demonstrate understanding.

**Type of lesson:** Mastery Teaching

**Action Plan:** Anticipatory Set: - **5 minutes** View Runaway Story from Frederick Newspaper of 1854.

Instructional Input – **5 minutes** Use projector to have all students view together. Have one student read the story aloud.

Check for Understanding – **5 minutes** Encyclopedia.com have another student read the short passage about the Fugitive Slave Act. Briefly discuss the meaning of this Act.

Independent Practice/Assessment **25 minutes** – Students should complete the **questions** as the assessment using sources identified.

## Runaways in Frederick County and Slave Laws

**FUGITIVES RECOVERED.**—On Sunday afternoon, a free negro, named Rollins, hired a horse and buggy from Sinn's Livery Stables; about 11 o'clock at night, as it afterwards appeared, the same horse and buggy, containing two runaway slaves, one a negro man, belonging to George M. Potts, Esq., and the other a negro woman belonging to C. Shriner, Esq., were seen passing towards Pennsylvania. On representation of these circumstances, Col. John T. Sinn, the owner of the horse and buggy, started in pursuit, and we learn, by a dispatch received yesterday morning, that he succeeded in arresting the fugitives. Rollins, was arrested yesterday morning, as an accomplice of the theft, and for enticing the slaves to abscond. He, as well as the fugitives are now in jail here.

(Frederick) Examiner, September 13, 1854

This newspaper article from the Frederick Examiner tells us the story of two slaves and their unsuccessful attempt to runaway from Frederick County in 1854. As border county runaways were frequent here in Frederick. There are several important things happening in this story that help us understand the runaway slave, the owners, members of the community and slave catchers.

### **Questions:**

On a separate sheet of paper answer the following questions using complete sentences. Use information from the Resources listed and from what we have discussed in class and support your answers with evidence from the sources.

1. Why would the slaves have wanted Rollins help?
2. What would have been Rollins fate after capture?
3. What position on slavery and the Fugitive Slave Act do you think Sinn held?
4. What might another white person who did not have Sinn's beliefs have done in this situation?
1. Maryland was a slave state that also had a free Negro population. What was the population in 1850 of free and enslaved blacks in Maryland?
5. If Potts and Shriner don't come to collect their slaves what could happen to them?

### **Resources to use:**

- Guide to the History of Slavery in Maryland. Annapolis: Maryland State Archives, 2007.

[http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/intromsa/pdf/slavery\\_pamphlet.pdf](http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/intromsa/pdf/slavery_pamphlet.pdf)

- Laws Regarding Slaves and Free Blacks in the State of Maryland. Maryland State Archives, 2007.

[http://www.mdslavery.net/html/research/slaves\\_free.html](http://www.mdslavery.net/html/research/slaves_free.html)

- Historical Census Browser. University of Virginia, 2010.

<http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/>

- The Fugitive Slave Act at Encyclopedia.com.

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3437701932.html>